an economically and environmentally sustainable development especially in Karnataka, Rajasthan, Orissa and Himachal Pradesh.

Anomalies in Excise Duty Structure

900. SHRI MOHD. KHALEELUR RAHMAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Electrical and Electronics Manufacturers' Association has pointed out anomalies in excise duty structure arising out of the budget provisions ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ;

(c) what steps Government propose to take to remove the anomalies ;

(d) whether they have also represented that duty on electrical insulators of all types falling under Tariff item 83.12, Tariff item 85.44 and Tariff item 85.46 be reduced to 10 per cent ad valorem and on Tariff item 7225.10 : 7226.10 to 60 per cent ad valorem ;

(e) whether any expert advice has been taken in this regard, if not, what are the reasons therefor ; and

(f) what action Government have taken on the representation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) to (f) The Indian Electrical and Electronics Manufacturers' Association, in their letters dated 4th March, 1993 and 11th March, 1993 have stated that post-budget excise duty structure has led to certain anomalies. In the representation, the Association has, inter alia, stated that excise duty of 35 per cent on electrical wires and cables of heading No. 85.44 and 40 per cent on electrical insulators of heading No. 85.46 of Central Excise Tariff is anomalous. Similarly, in respect of transformers, motors and switchgears the excise duty on finished goods is 5 per cent while that on their inputs is higher. The Association has also requested for reduction in import duty on items falling under sub-heading Nos. 7225.10, 7226.10 of the Customs Tariff to 60 per cent ad valorem and reduction in excise duty on items falling under Heading Nos. 83.12, 85.44 and 85.46 of the Central Excise Tariff to 10 per cent ad valorem.

The Government have examined the various points referred to above. It has not been found possible to accede to the requests made by the Association at present.

Cultivation of Opium

901. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India is the World's largest legal grower of opium but the area under legal cultivation has declined by 80 per cent between 1978 and 1992 ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the seizures of Illicit opium fell from 29,145 Kgs. in 1991 to 1,813 Kgs. in 1992 ;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor ;

(d) whether the special State Narcotics courts mandated by the 1988 drug law to expedite trials of drug traffickers have been set-up in the country if so, what are State-wise details thereof ;

(e) what is the number of persons who were arrested under the Narcotics and Psychotropic substances Act, during 1992 both by the Central and State Agencies as compared to the year 1991 state-wise details thereof ; and

(f) what effective steps the Central Government propose to take to control the illicit growth and business of Narcotics and for the setting up of more Special Narcotics Courts in all States by 1993-94 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHRA MURTHY) : (a) Yes, it is fact that India is the World's largest legal producer of Opium. The licenced area under poppy cultivation has been reduced progressively over the years from 66,338 hectares in 1977-78 to 13,745 hectares in 1992-93. Over production of Opiate raw-material by certain countries alongwith emergence of alternative Opiate source that is concentrate of poppy straw (CPS) resulted in accumulation of stocks of opium in India. To reduce these stocks and to stop further accretion to it, India had to reduce licensed area under poppy cultivation in the country.

(b) and (c) Illicit opium seizures in the country fell from 2145 Kgs. in 1991 to 1918 Kgs. in 1992. The fall in seizures of opium in the year 1992 was because of better vigilance and tighter control on poppy cultivation.

(d) As per available information Special Courts in the following States have already been created as per the provision in the NDPS Act (as amended in 1988) :—

1.	Maharashtra	— 8
2.	Meghalaya	— 5
3.	West Bengal	— 4
4.	Manipur	— 4
5.	Tripura	— 1
6.	Goa	— 1

(e) Details of persons arrested during 1992 as compared to 1991 by various enforcement agencies of Central and State Governments are given in the statement attached [See below].

(f) The enforcement set-up in the Central Bureau of Narcotics has been reorganised and strengthened. Instructions have been issued to, and are frequently reiterated through meetings with, all the enforcement agencies to maintain the utmost vigil and step-up enforcement efforts. State Governments have been requested to set up Special Courts.

Statement

PERSONS ARRESTED UNDER THE N. D. P. S. ACT

Name of the States	Persons arrested	
	1991	1992
	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	25	20
Andman & Nicobar	4	3
Assam	37	115
Arunachal Pradesh	5	4
Bihar	17	99
Chandigarh	—	85
Dadar & Nagar Haveli	—	-
Daman & Diu	—	—
Delhi	691	612
Goa	12	32

1	2	3
Gujarat	42	32
Haryana	160	119
Himachal Pradesh	6	46
Jammu & Kashmir	25	44
Karnataka	2	53
Kerala	41	159
Lakshadweep	—	—
Madhya Pradesh	66	112
Maharashtra	553	1022
Manipur	45	297
Meghalaya	2	21
Mizoram	73	213
Nagaland	33	159
Orissa	2	16
Pondicherry	71	7
Punjab	98	211
Rajasthan	—	113
Sikkim	—	—
Tamil Nadu	1610	2929
Tripura	–	1
Uttar Pradesh	1614	6249
West Bengal	66	77

Raising Reward Money for Anti-Smuggling Works

902. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the ceiling of rupees ten lakhs on reward of custom officer is affecting the anti-smuggling work ;

(b) whether the officers who have received ten lakh reward will stop doing anti-smuggling work ;

(c) what will be the amount of incentive to be paid to these officers ;

(d) whether the incentive of reward is stopped to them ; and

(e) whether the limit of ten lakh reward not be removed as it is affecting anti-smuggling work ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) and (b) At present there are no indications of any adverse effects due to ceiling of reward of Rs. 0 lakh to custom officers entrusted with the job of anti-smuggling.

Officers doing anti-smuggling work do not cease doing their work on achieving the reward of Rs. 10 lakh. According to avail-